

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 21 and 28 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 1 and 89 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A forceps type apparatus generally U-shaped for use with a hand, the U-shape having two arms and a connecting portion, consisting of comprising:

a pair of opposing blades being the two arms of the U-shape, with the pair of opposing blades each having a top surface and a bottom surface and each comprising a proximal section, a middle section and a distal section, wherein

the proximal end of the proximal section of one opposing blade connecting to the proximal end of the proximal section of the other opposing blade via the connecting portion of the U-shape so as to provide ~~thereby forming~~ a first support location ~~for engaging configured to engage~~ a portion of the radial side of the palmar surface of the hand thereby supporting the forceps type apparatus in the hand without placing substantial pressure on a surface of the hand located over the carpal tunnel;

the middle section of each opposing blade connecting the proximal section and the distal section of a corresponding opposing blade, with the middle section of at least one opposing blade including an extension support member having a distal surface ~~thereby forming~~ so as to provide a second support location ~~for engaging configured to engage~~ at least one of the middle finger or the ring finger of the hand for supporting the forceps type apparatus in the hand, with the extension support member projecting downwardly relative to the bottom surface of the corresponding opposing blade, and with the extension support member extending transversely relative to the direction of motion of the opposing blades; [[and]]

the distal section of each opposing blade extending from the middle section of a corresponding opposing blade, with one opposing blade for receiving the thumb and the other opposing blade for receiving at least one of the index finger or middle finger of the hand, when the forceps type apparatus is positioned with the hand;

the proximal end of the proximal section of one opposing blade is continuous with or integrally formed with the proximal end of the proximal section of the other opposing blade; and

the pair of opposing blades are selectively contacted with each other at distal ends of the distal sections only when the first and second supporting locations are engaging with the hand.

2. (Previously Presented) The forceps type apparatus of claim 1, wherein the distal section of each of the opposing blades includes a working end.
3. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 2, wherein the working end includes an implement.
4. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 3, wherein the implement is for grasping, pinching, cutting, rotating, an electrical function or a mechanical function.
5. (Previously Presented) The forceps type apparatus of claim 1, wherein the proximal end of the proximal section of each opposing blade positions the forceps type apparatus within the hand without engaging a surface of the hand located over the carpal tunnel.
6. (Previously Presented) The forceps type apparatus of claim 1, wherein the middle section of each of the pair of opposing blades includes the extension support member having the distal surface forming the second support location.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously Presented) The forceps type apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the pair of opposing blades is a mirror image of the other of the pair of opposing blades.
9. (Previously Presented) The forceps type apparatus of claim 1, wherein the distal section of at least one of the opposing blades includes a working end.
10. (Previously Presented) The forceps type apparatus of claim 9, wherein the working end is located at the distal end of the distal section of a corresponding opposing blade.

11. (Original) The forceps type apparatus of claim 10, wherein the working end is for at least one of grasping, pinching or cutting.
12. (Previously Presented) The forceps type apparatus of claim 9, wherein the working end performs a mechanical action related to the opposing movement of the distal pad of the thumb on one opposing blade toward at least one of the distal pad of the index finger and the distal pad of the middle finger on the other opposing blade.
13. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 9, wherein the working end of at least one of the opposing blades has a suitable connection means.
14. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 9, wherein the working end of at least one of the opposing blades has a suitable connection means for connecting an implement to the forceps type apparatus.
15. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 9, wherein the working end of a corresponding opposing blade is located at a distal end of at least one of the opposing blades and has a suitable connection means for connecting an implement to the forceps type apparatus.
16. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 9, wherein an implement is integrated with the working end of at least one of the opposing blades.
17. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 9, wherein the implement is for grasping, pinching, cutting, rotating, an electrical function or a mechanical function.
18. (Previously Presented) The forceps type apparatus of claim 1, wherein the proximal section, the middle section and the distal section of each corresponding opposing blade forms a generally arc shaped configuration.
19. (Previously Presented) The forceps type apparatus of claim 18, wherein the generally arc shaped configuration forms a generally concave side at the top surface of each of

the opposing blades and an generally convex side at the bottom surface of each of the opposing blades for the forceps type apparatus.

20-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The forceps type apparatus of claim 1, wherein the proximal ends of the proximal sections of the pair of opposing blades are connected by a mechanical connection means.

23-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) The forceps type apparatus of claim 1, wherein the width of the proximal end of the corresponding opposing blade approximates the width of the base of the index finger of the hand.

30. (Previously Presented) The forceps type apparatus of claim 1, wherein the width of the distal end of the distal section of the corresponding opposing blade approximates the combined width of the distal pad of the index finger and the distal pad of the middle finger of the hand.

31. (Previously Presented) The forceps type apparatus of claim 1, wherein the proximal ends of the proximal sections of the corresponding opposing blades of the forceps type apparatus correspond to the surface of the palm in the area of the horizontal crease at the radial side of the hand.

32-51. (Cancelled)

52. (Previously Presented) The forceps type apparatus of claim 1, wherein the distal surface of the extension support member of the middle section of the corresponding opposing blade is a scalloped distal surface.

53. (Previously Presented) The forceps type apparatus of claim 1, wherein the distal surface of the extension support member of the middle section of the corresponding opposing blade is a generally flat distal surface.

54. (Previously Presented) The forceps type apparatus of claim 1, wherein the distal surface of the extension support member of the middle section of the corresponding opposing blade is a ringed distal surface.
55. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the proximal end of the proximal section of the corresponding opposing blade includes an extension for adjusting the forceps type apparatus to correspond to a hand size.
56. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 55, wherein each extension is selectively added to the pair of opposing blades for adjusting the forceps type apparatus to correspond to a hand size.
57. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a spring member positioned between the pair of opposing blades, wherein the spring member maintains the forceps type apparatus in a resting position.
58. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a clamping mechanism positioned between the pair of opposing blades, wherein the clamping mechanism selectively maintains a range of positions including a partially closed position and a closed position for the forceps type apparatus.
59. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the forceps type apparatus comprises at least one finger guide member for receiving a corresponding at least one of the thumb, index finger or middle finger of the hand.
60. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 59, further comprising at least one finger guide member positioned on each of the pair of opposing blades, wherein each finger guide member on the pair of opposing blades enables the pair of opposing blades of the forceps type apparatus to spread apart.
61. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the forceps type apparatus includes means for changing the motion of the opposing blades into another motion, wherein the means for changing the motion changes a side to side motion of the opposing blades into a direction of motion that is a slanted or vertically oriented motion in relation to the side to side motion of the opposing blades.

62. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the forceps type apparatus includes means for changing the motion of the opposing blades into a motion for a working end of the forceps type apparatus.
63. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 62, wherein the means for changing the motion comprises a fixed member positioned in extended relation from a radial hinge portion of the proximal sections of the pair of opposing blades, and a sliding member positioned adjacent to the fixed member, with the movement of the opposing blades moving the sliding member for activating the motion for the working end.
64. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 63, wherein the means for changing the motion further comprises at least one brace member for movement of the sliding member for activating the motion for the working end.
65. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 64, wherein a corresponding brace member is attached to the forceps type apparatus by a corresponding hinge member and to the sliding member by a corresponding hinge member for moving the sliding member to activate the motion for the working end.
66. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 65, wherein the hinge member attached to the forceps type apparatus is positioned distally relative to the hinge member attached to the sliding member.
67. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 65, wherein the hinge member attached to the forceps type apparatus is positioned proximally relative to the hinge member attached to the sliding member.
68. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 65, wherein the means for changing the motion further comprises a first spring member attached to the sliding member and attached to the forceps type apparatus.
69. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 68, wherein the means for changing the motion further comprises a second spring member attached to the fixed member and attached to the sliding member of the forceps type apparatus.

70. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 69, wherein the hinge member attached to the forceps type apparatus is positioned distally relative to the hinge member attached to the sliding member.
71. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 70, wherein the working end comprises a scalpel, the scalpel comprises the fixed member, and the sliding member comprises a retractable guard for selectively retracting and exposing a blade of the scalpel.
72. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 69, wherein the working end comprises a surgical tool, the surgical tool comprises the fixed member, and the sliding member comprises a retractable guard for selectively retracting and exposing the surgical tool.
73. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 69, wherein the working end comprises a tool, the tool comprises the fixed member, and the sliding member comprises a retractable guard for selectively retracting and exposing the tool.
74. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 69, wherein the working end comprises the fixed member and the sliding member comprises a retractable guard for selectively surrounding and exposing the working end.
75. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 63, wherein the working end comprises a scalpel, the scalpel comprises the fixed member, and the sliding member comprises a retractable guard for selectively retracting and exposing a blade of the scalpel.
76. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 63, wherein the working end comprises a tool, the tool comprises the fixed member, and the sliding member comprises a retractable guard for selectively retracting and exposing the tool.
77. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 63, wherein the working end comprises the fixed member and the sliding member comprises a retractable guard for selectively surrounding and exposing the working end.
78. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 62, wherein the means for changing the motion comprises a fixed member positioned with the forceps type apparatus and a sliding member positioned adjacent to the fixed member, with the

sliding member being associated with the working end for activating the motion for the working end.

79. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 78, wherein the working end comprises a scalpel, the scalpel comprises the fixed member, and the sliding member comprises a retractable guard for selectively retracting and exposing a blade of the scalpel.
80. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 78, wherein the working end comprises a tool, the tool comprises the fixed member, and the sliding member comprises a retractable guard for selectively retracting and exposing the tool.
81. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the forceps type apparatus comprises a surgical tool having a retractable guard for selectively surrounding and exposing the working end of the surgical tool.
82. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the forceps type apparatus comprises a tool having a retractable guard for selectively surrounding and exposing the tool.
83. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the forceps type apparatus comprises a tool.
84. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the forceps type apparatus comprises a surgical tool.
85. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the forceps type apparatus comprises an endoscopic surgical tool.
86. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the forceps type apparatus comprises a microscissors.
87. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the forceps type apparatus comprises a reverse tweezers.
88. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the forceps type apparatus comprises a fine scissors.

89. (Currently Amended) A forceps type apparatus generally U-shaped for use with a hand, the U-shape having two arms and a connecting portion, consisting of comprising:

a pair of opposing blades being the two arms of the U-shape, with the pair of opposing blades each having a top surface and a bottom surface and each comprising a proximal section, a middle section and a distal section, wherein

the proximal end of the proximal section of one opposing blade connecting to the proximal end of the proximal section of the other opposing blade via the connecting portion of the U-shape so as to provide ~~thereby forming~~ a first support location ~~for engaging~~ configured to engage a portion of the radial side of the palmar surface of the hand thereby supporting the forceps type apparatus in the hand without placing substantial pressure on a surface of the hand located over the carpal tunnel;

the middle section of each opposing blade connecting the proximal section and the distal section of a corresponding opposing blade, with the middle section of at least one opposing blade including an extension support member having a distal surface ~~forming so as to provide~~ a second support location for engaging configured to engage at least one of the middle finger or the ring finger of the hand for supporting the forceps type apparatus in the hand, with the extension support member projecting downwardly relative to the bottom surface of the corresponding opposing blade, and with the extension support member extending transversely relative to the direction of motion of the opposing blades without being in direct communication with the other of the opposing blades; [[and]]

the distal section of each opposing blade extending from the middle section of a corresponding opposing blade, with one opposing blade for receiving the thumb and the other opposing blade for receiving at least one of the index finger or middle finger of the hand, when the forceps type apparatus is positioned with the hand;

the proximal end of the proximal section of one opposing blade is continuous with or integrally formed with the proximal end of the proximal section of the other opposing blade; and

the pair of opposing blades are selectively contacted with each other at distal ends of the distal sections only when the first and second supporting locations are engaging with the hand.